

The following are the measurements of the present species compared with those of specimens of *Acrocephalus dumetorum* and *A palustris* in my collection :—

	Cul- men.	Gape.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Hind toe, with claw.	Hind claw.
<i>Acrocephalus sogdianensis.</i>							
Kokand. Type.....	0·7	0·74	3·0	2·4	0·85	0·45	0·22
<i>Acrocephalus palustris.</i>							
Westphalia. ♂	0·6	0·62	2·62	2·2	0·85	0·48	0·18
Antwerp	0·62	0·68	2·72	2·32	0·9	0·5	0·22
Halle, Saxony. ♀	0·6	0·65	2·65	2·2	0·87	0·5	0·22
Piedmont. ♀	0·6	0·65	2·65	2·18	0·9	0·5	0·22
<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum.</i>							
Ekaterinburg	0·62	0·7	2·41	2·15	0·85	0·46	0·22
"	0·62	0·7	2·41	2·1	0·9	0·46	0·22
"	0·63	0·68	2·35	2·15	0·9	0·5	0·25
S. Ural. ♂	0·68	0·7	2·38	2·2	0·9	0·49	0·25
Etawah, India	0·65	0·7	2·4	2·25	0·88	0·5	0·25
Ahmenuggur, India. ♀.	0·65	0·7	2·4	2·25	0·9	0·48	0·22

XLIII.—*Ornithological Notes made at Chefoo (Province of Shantung, North China).* By R. SWINHOE, H.M. Consul.

(Plate XIV.)

I ARRIVED at Chefoo on the 25th April, too late for the game-market, but in time to catch the inflow of the later migrant land-birds. Few English readers will probably know where Chefoo is ; so it will be as well to say something of its position on the globe before proceeding to give my ornithological experiences there. The northward coast-line of China ends at the Shantung promontory ; and the land now bearing westwards discovers at a distance of about sixty-eight miles the little harbour called Yentai by the Chinese, which was opened to foreign trade by the Treaty of Tientsin of 1860, as more accessible to shipping than the port of Tengechow city (named in the treaty), which is situate about forty miles further west on the coast, and within the Prefecture of which this locality is included. The French Expedition rendezvoused here in 1860, while the British gathered their forces in Tazienwan (of

the opposite promontory), preparatory to their united descent on the mud-flats of Pehtang and Takoo, at the head of the Gulf of Pehchelee. The French misnamed this place Chefoo, after the westward headland of the harbour, which is called Chefoo Head by the Chinese; but a name once affixed, be it right or wrong, it is not easy to change; and to the outer world Yentai* must for ever be Chefoo. To foreign residents in China Chefoo is more than a port of trade; it is the summer resort of the ladies and their sick lords, and has been hailed as the "Scarborough of China." I owed my incumbency there, in fact, to the state of my health. The government buildings are situate on a hill which forms the right side of the small inner harbour; on the left you have the long west beach, on the edge of a broad sand-spit, five miles long, ending in an island-like headland, named, as I have before stated, Chefoo Head; the native town of Yentai clusters in the angle between, with the foreign mercantile settlement on its right side. Below our hill, on the eastward side, stretches the east beach for two miles, finishing with the spur of a range of hills not exceeding 800 feet that closes in our valley and sweeps round to the west beach. The plain to their feet is for the most part under cultivation, and sprinkled with native villages and farmhouses. Hotels and summer residences are mostly at the foot of our hill and on the east beach; and missionary establishments lie at long distances apart on the hills at the back or among villages. The bay that expands in front of the east beach is protected six miles to seaward by a line of small islands, on the largest of which is a lighthouse, to mark the entrance to the harbour. It at once occurred to me that during the migration-time it would be useful to enlist the good offices of the keeper of the lighthouse to look out with a gun. The keeper, Mr. Campbell, an officer of the Imperial Maritime Customs, goodnaturedly promised his as-

* Sometimes written Yentai (M. D. 12,082. 9,726) or "Swallow-Terrace," sometimes Yëntay (M. D. 12,015. 9,726) or "Smoke-Tower."

To save the insertion of Chinese characters, which is no easy matter for an English printer, I have adopted the system used by telegraphers of Chinese. "M. D." signifies 'Morrison's Dictionary,' and the numbers that follow those of the characters in that well-known work.

sistance, and, as will be seen, has done good service to science.

Until the middle of May a few Gulls were about, which I made out to be *Larus niveus* and *L. crassirostris*, a few Ducks rested about the bays, *Edemia fusca* and *Glaucion clangula*, and a pair or two of Cormorants would fly past with outstretched necks.

On the 30th of April the market contained a Woodcock and a Spring Snipe (*Gallinago megala*), and on the 2nd May a live female Bustard (*Otis tarda*); but the game-season was past, and it was for fish that I had to visit the market. On the 3rd May three young Eagle Owls (*Bubo maximus*), just balls of down, were brought to me. They all belonged to one nest. They uttered a jingling cry when suddenly laid hold of, and clicked their bills at you when approached. Eagle Owls appear to breed throughout the hilly portions of the China coast. I have procured young birds so far south as Amoy, at Ningpo, and here again at Chefoo.

Anxious to get a view of the country, I took a sedan to where the hill-range slopes down to the west beach. The slope is exposed to the north and covered with trees planted, park-like, at some distance from each other; but such is the strength of the gales that blow, that the soil up the hill and for miles about is covered many inches deep with sand, and the trees seem to spring from a desert of sand, while the grass may be seen in vain struggling through to get a peep at the daylight. As the wood extends to the rear of the hills vegetation becomes more prominent, and the trees attain finer proportions and at length yield good timber round about some farms. This is a pretty park-like locality, and is known here by the lovers of picnics as the "Bois de Boulogne." Buds were now bursting into leaf, and the sibilant call of the far-travelling Yellow-browed Warbler (*Reguloides superciliosus*) was frequently heard, and its tiny form seen springing about the boughs in pursuit of insects revived by the returning warmth. I saw no other Warblers. Tomtits (*Parus minor*) were numerous, and noisy with their nuptial call-notes. Magpies chattered about; and almost every tall *Salisburia*

adiantifolia, or poplar, showed a large round mass of sticks, in which the thoughts of the Magpies were for the present concentrated. But in these same uncouth masses another interest seemed also concerned, that of the Red-legged Falcon (*Erythropus amurensis*), several of which of both sexes were circling about, now fluttering excitedly with rapid beats of wing, now sailing steadily in long circles. The Red-legged Falcons had apparently not long arrived, and had not yet begun to lay; but the Magpies had in most cases callow young. I sent a sedan-coolie up a tree in the back garden of a man's house in a village to examine a Magpie's nest. When he reached the nest I called out from below and asked him what he found there. He said five red ones. Thinking that he meant red eggs I was delighted at the prospect of Hawk's eggs, and told him to bring them down. He brought down one addled Magpie's egg and five wretched red sprawling young Magpies with eyes still unopened. The owner of the property remonstrated with me for robbing a Magpie's nest. He said we owed them protection, as they put such confidence in us. They call the Magpie here Ya-tcheo. Associated with the Magpie I saw small parties of the Blue Magpie (*Cyanopoliis cyana*). A specimen of the male afterwards brought to me shows a race much larger, with longer tail, than that found about Shanghai. It differs, however, only in some trifling respects in colour and markings. Doves (*Turtur gelastes*) bustled off the branches as we advanced; a Woodpecker (*Picus mandarinus*) hammered away quite close to us; an Owl (*Ninox japonicus*) flew from tree to tree on our approach; and a Goatsucker (*Caprimulgus jotaka*) showed itself lying lengthwise on a bough. Siskins and Mountain-Finches were twittering about in small parties; and Chinese birdcatchers, with their decoys in cage-traps, were lying in wait for them. From these we got a live Tree-Pipit (*Pipastes agilis*) and a Pintail Snipe (*Gallinago horsfieldi*). Common and Daurian Swallows were about the villages; and occasionally a White-banded Swift (*Cypselus pacificus*) might be seen speeding along overhead. A few Stonechats (*Pratincola indica*) were about the standing corn. We met some Quail-catchers and brought home a

dozen specimens. Quails were arriving in large numbers ; and many were daily caught and brought to market for sale, both for food and for fighting-purposes.

On the 9th May Mr. Campbell, of the lighthouse, sent me a female Oyster-catcher, and a few days after (15th) the male. In the female the remiges begin to show white on the shaft of the first quill ; in the male on the shaft of the third. Neither has any indication of a white collar on the neck. The characters best to be relied on for a discrimination of this species from its European ally, *H. ostralegus*, are the great length of bill, and the black spots at tips of upper tail-coverts.

The Rev. W. Corbett, an American missionary at Chefoo, lent me a manuscript work by a Chinese, in four volumes, containing illustrations by hand of birds, beasts, fishes, insects, and plants. The work was picked up at an old book-stall by the reverend gentleman. It had neither title nor author's name, no preface, and no date. The drawings are coloured, and most of them life-size and recognizable, and are intended apparently to illustrate the natural objects that the artist has from time to time met with at Chefoo. The author probably intended to publish the work, but for want of funds disposed of the manuscript in the unfinished state it came into our hands. I have found it useful in supplying native names to many birds. I refer to it in the following notes as 'MS. Illustrations.'

We left Chefoo on the 20th October, as it was advised that we should fly its winter's cold. Its summer is insufferably hot, depending on the sea-breezes for refreshment ; its winter, on the other hand, is extremely cold, and the gales from the sea very biting. It is true that it is open to shipping, and that the Pekin mails are landed there for overland carriage when the Peiho is frozen up ; but now and again it is so cold that the harbour extending to the islands becomes one sheet of solid ice.

1. OSPREY. *Pandion haliaëtus* (L.).

Mr. A. Michie, of Shanghai, on a visit to me, went out on the 15th October, and brought back a male of this species.

It was the ordinary species, which is also found throughout China. In Japan the smaller bird of the southern hemisphere is the prevalent species according to Schlegel (*Mus. des Pays-Bas, Aquilæ*, p. 22).

2. PEREGRINE FALCON. *Falco peregrinus*, L.

A pair of Peregrines were breeding on the cliffs of North Rock, according to Constable Webster. He shot both male and female on different visits to the islet. They were both in adult plumage. The male had thin yellowish *ascarides*, about 7 inches long, in the fatty tissue between its thighs and flanks. A countryman brought me an egg, which Mr. A. Newton, to whom I have shown it, agrees with me in considering the faded egg of this species. It was taken from a nest in a precipitous cliff. The Peregrine appears to be a resident species the whole length of the Chinese coast. Young birds in their white down have been brought to me at Amoy; and the species is always to be found throughout winter over Duck-marshes as far south as Canton.

3. MERLIN. *Falco æsalon*, L.

It blew hard from the south-west for three days up to the 12th May, when, standing in the veranda of our house upon the hill, I watched a party of Swifts flying past. A pair of Merlins were with them, and passed quite close enough to me for easy recognition. This is the only time I noted the species.

4. KESTREL. *Falco tinnunculus*, L.

Kestrels are not less common at Chefoo than they are elsewhere along the Chinese coast. I only procured two females, one shot by Constable Webster in the settlement, and the other by Mr. Campbell at Lighthouse Island. The first was procured on the 9th January, and is of the ordinary variety known as *japonicus*; the other dates 12th September, and is of very much larger size, with the red of the upper parts very pale, streaked and banded very broadly, has the tail very broadly barred with a comparatively narrow terminal dark bar, and very little grey on the rump and base of tail. Underparts whitish with little yellow, dark streaks on breast broad,

coalescing into splashes; the tibials with conspicuous heart-shaped dark spots. Tarse and feet more delicate, the former with small hexagonal scales.

	Length.	Wing.	Tail.
Small ♀	13	9	6.88
Large ♀	15.25	10.5	8

The unusual appearance of the bird, and its very large size, made me half believe that I had got a novelty; but I have searched in vain for any structural difference, and I am forced to admit that my single specimen must be merely an extraordinary individual variety. At least we have not sufficient material for coming to any other conclusion.

5. EASTERN RED-LEGGED FALCON. *Erythropus amurensis* (Raddé).

Soon after my arrival at Chefoo, on 4th May, I made an excursion to the "Bois de Boulogne." We had not penetrated far along the avenue of tall trees that leads to it from the road when I recognized the Kestrel-like scream of this species, and soon saw a male with conspicuous white axillaries wheeling in circles in the sky above. He was quickly followed by a female. I was glad to see that this little Hawk was already here on its summer visit; and shortly after, espying a large Magpie's nest up a high tree, I had my sedan chair put down, and induced my chair-coolies to attempt climbing the long smooth pole. While my men were addressing themselves to the task I noticed the birds go several times to the nest, and my hopes were high that eggs were laid. An excrescence on the bole some way up foiled my men, and they gave up the ascent. I tried a more accessible Magpie's nest on the way home. A pair of Red-legged Falcons were hovering near; but the parent Magpies were about too. The nest contained only callow young Magpies. A few days later, in the garden of a missionary living in the country at some distance from the town, I noticed a female Falcon fly from the top of a Magpie's nest. I sent a man up, but he found the nest empty. With all my efforts I did not succeed in getting either an egg or a downy chick.

In a dry watercourse, or "nullah," about a mile from the

settlement, there were some fine trees, in which there stood the domed nest of a Magpie and the small open nest apparently of a Blue Magpie. Both of these appeared to be occupied by Red-legged Falcons; and there were some two dozen of them about. The trees were difficult to climb, and we could get no native to attempt them; so we contented ourselves with shooting a male and female, and a young male in moult.

The old male had very large testes, the young male smaller ones; but evidently both were engaged in breeding. The female had small eggs containing yolk. Their stomachs were crammed with bits of grasshoppers saturated with a pink juice. I must here remark that the food of this Falcon is by no means restricted to insects. My former experience in Talien Bay (see Ibis, 1861, p. 253) shows that they are no strangers to bird-flesh; and even in Chefoo they are reared and trained for hawking small birds, for which they would certainly be useless were they purely insectivorous. On the 22nd August I bought from a native two yearlings of this species that were being so trained. Their ceres and legs were yellow, the former dull; their irides black.

6. BLACK-EARED KITE. *Milvus melanotis*, Temm. & Schleg.
Fauna Japonica.

Kites did not appear abundant about us till July. They were probably engaged up to then in breeding about the cliffs of the islands to seaward. I was told that they were always to be seen at this time over the lighthouse island, Kung-kung-tan; and Mr. Campbell sent me word that nothing bred on the cliffs of his island but Hawks of this description. On a visit to our settlement on the 4th October he shot one of these so-called Hawks, and brought it to me. It was an adult male, measuring 25 inches in total length; wing $16\frac{1}{2}$, falling 5 short of tail-tip; under tail-coverts also $5\frac{1}{2}$ short of same. Tail 12 inches, not much forked, the outermost rectrix 1 inch longer than the centrals. Belly and breast ochreous, with pale streaks; its iris was brown, and the base of the bill greener than usual. Feet bluish white, with a very slight tinge of yellow.

7. GOSHAWK. *Astur palumbarius* (L.).

Mr. Campbell, of the lighthouse, brought me on the 10th October a yearling of this species which he had shot about his premises the day before. The Hawk carried off one of his chickens. He shot it and redeemed his property, but in a lifeless state. I did not at the time know the undress of the Goshawk, and was puzzled about the species, thinking that I had got a large female of our Formosan *Astur virgatus*. The specimen before me had a brownish upper dress, with broad bands to its tail, and a small pointed occipital crest. Its bill was blackish on the culmen, bluish at the base. Cere and round eye greenish; rictus yellow; iris pale yellow. Legs and feet greenish yellow; claws black. When I showed this Hawk the other day to Mr. R. B. Sharpe, he recognized it at once as the immature of the Goshawk, and said he had seen small crests in European specimens. I obtained the Goshawk before at Pekin in complete plumage (see P. Z. S. 1871, p. 341).

8. SPARROW-HAWK. *Accipiter nisus* (L.).

A female Sparrow-Hawk was brought to me on the wrist by a native. He was training it for hawking.

9. STEVENSON'S HAWK. *Accipiter stevensoni*, Gurney.

Throughout May in my country rambles I would frequently meet natives carrying Hawks on their wrists. This species was in the greatest request. How the natives caught these Hawks I do not know; but the birds they were training were invariably males more or less adult. They did not know the female. I only once came upon a man actually engaged in hawking. His Hawk had captured two small birds (*Locustella lanceolata*); and the owner seemed very proud of the feat accomplished by his "élève." He had a cap for his bird surmounted by a crest of feathers, much like the "Falcon's hood" used in Europe, and a bell on the tail at its base, with a few strips of red and blue cloth pendent. When the bird shook or flew the bell tinkled. An adult male measured 10 inches in length. Wing 6·6, the tip of the main quills extending 1·4 beyond the tips of the tertiaries, and 2·1 short of the

tail-tip; 1st quill $2\frac{1}{2}$ long, 2nd 1·35 longer, 3rd ·88 longer again, 4th ·3 longer still, 5th ·15 shorter than the last, which is the longest in the wing. Tail 4·5 long, laterals rather shorter than the centrals; under tail-coverts 2·4 short of tail-tip. Tarse 1·6; middle toe 1·2, its claw ·35; claws thick at base. Bill greyish-blue, black on the apical half. Cere, base of lower mandible and angle of bill, skin on upper orbit and round eye, greenish yellow. Iris crimson. Legs greyish-green on upper surface of tarse, greenish chrome-yellow on under surface. Feet chrome-yellow, greenish on edges of scales. Claws rich black.

A younger male measured in length 10·4; wing 6·6; tail 4·6. Bare tarse 1·6; middle toe 1·2; its claw ·3. It was rather yellower on the toes than the last, and had the upper orbit dark grey; iris yellowish crimson. A little green marked the culmen of its bill and the angle of its mouth. The tarsus in both birds was scarcely broader than the hind and inner toes.

The last bird got loose in my sitting-room and tore to pieces the skin of a Quail, thinking to find flesh within instead of cotton wool and preservative.

I never saw this Hawk in my rambles in the country; and as the country-people carried only males, I almost despaired of getting a female. Here, again, Mr. Campbell, of the Lighthouse, came to my assistance. He sent me one or two specimens of the bird from his island, and at length on the 10th October an immature female. In this the iris was plain yellow, and the upper surface of the legs and feet greyish-green, the under surface being yellowish, the claws black, brownish at their bases. The upper plumage is brown, darker on the head, and lighter on the tail, the feathers edged with brownish chestnut, the tail tipped with brownish white, and banded with four broad brown bars, the basal one of which is hidden by the upper tail-coverts. Its underparts are white washed in parts with greyish cream-colour. A central line of long black drops marks the chin to the breast, where the drops get larger and more extended. The axillaries are more decided cream-colour, with blackish-brown spots; the under quills

splashed with reddish cream obscurely barred with brown; the sides and belly barred with reddish brown; the tibials more closely and narrowly with a greyer hue of same; the under tail washed with white and barred with narrow bars of brown; the vent a pure white. Total length of skin about 13 inches; of wing $7\frac{1}{2}$; of tail 6.3.

The same good friend sent me a few days before a young male in the immature plumage. This had the iris also plain yellow and the legs much greener than in the adult.

I cannot, I am sorry to say, speak with certainty as to whether this species breeds about Chefoo. I never saw it so engaged; the ardent native falconers were never met with young birds in training; and the immature birds had plenty of time to be on their return migration from the Corea, or Mantchuria. The organs examined of the spring arrivals were well advanced; and it is not impossible that a few halt *en route* to carry out the golden law, while the majority of their race push northwards.

10. BROWN HAIRY-FOOTED OWL. *Ninox japonicus* (Temm. & Schleg. Faun. Japon.).

On the 13th May, when rambling through the "Bois de Boulogne," we put up two of this Owl. They flapped to the cover of neighbouring trees. My Chinese servant went after them with a gun; but the birds were too sharp for him. These Owls were on their northward migration, and on the 21st Mr. Campbell sent me one from the Lighthouse island. It was a male and measured 12 inches; wing 8.3, first quill 1.9 shorter than the second, which is .6 shorter than the third, which with the fourth are the longest; wing-tip falls 1.2 short of tail and 1.8 longer than the tertiaries. Tail 5.3 long, of 12 nearly equal feathers. Cere and bill greenish. Iris yellow. Feet yellow, sprinkled on their upper surface with bristles, and covered on their soles with thickly packed long yellow papillæ. Claws long, sharp and black. Tarse bare only round the ankle; middle toe 1.2, its claw .55.

On the 28th Mr. Carles, from the Legation at Peking, who was staying with me, went to the "Bois de Boulogne" and

brought back another male *Ninox*. This also had somewhat small testes, as if not ready yet for breeding. Its stomach contained the remains of insects, together with whole undigested eggs of *Cimicidæ*.

On the 15th October Mr. Campbell sent me a female. It is larger than the male; the spots on its underparts more expanded and running into one another, and its tibials and belly banded. They were now bound on the southward migration.

The northern race of Brown Hairy-footed Owl, is certainly much larger than specimens I procured near Amoy and in Ningpo and in Hainan. They are deeper-coloured and less rufescent; but the differences are too slight to be considered specific. It is curious that in a migratory species such differences should occur.

11. GREAT HORNED OWL. *Bubo maximus*.

Three downy young of this fine Owl were brought to me on the 3rd of May. They all came from the same nest. Their eyes were much smaller than in the adult, with iris comparatively narrower and pupil larger. Bare tips of toes lemon-yellow, soles yellowish. I have an adult female from Chefoo. It is much paler than specimens from Amoy, though otherwise similar. It breeds also in the neighbourhood of Amoy; for many years ago, when domiciled in that southern port, a couple of downy young were brought to me that had been taken from a nest somewhere in the neighbourhood.

12. SMALL HORNED OWL. *Scops sunia*, Hodgs.

The first I saw of this species was a female sent by Mr. Campbell from Lighthouse Island on the 25th September. It was $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches long; wing 5·65, ·7 longer than the tertiaries, ·7 short of tail tip, first quill 1 shorter than the third and longest, second ·25 shorter than third. Tail soft and hogged, 2·5 long. Iris golden yellow. Bill yellowish grey; inside of mouth flesh-colour. Bare toes brownish grey, hoary on the scutes, joints, and soles; claws light yellowish brown. Dissection displayed a small cluster of eggs, and its stomach the remains of beetles and caterpillars.

In the beginning of October I received a male of the same from M. A. Fauvel, a French gentleman engaged as Assistant in the Imperial Customs, who had bought the bird from a native, and kept it alive for some days. This specimen measured in total length $6\frac{1}{2}$; wing 6, extending to end of tail, 1.15 longer than tertiary tips. Tail 3, soft, hogged and rounded, plumage brown, splashed with rufescence. Bill yellowish grey. Eyelids light yellowish brown. Iris fine yellow. Feet brown, with whitish edges to scutes, ochreous on sides; claws light brown. The female bird before noted had no rufescence; and I think, as a rule, males are oftener so distinguished than females. I have a rufescent specimen from Hakodadi without such markings, collected by Mr. H. Whitely, that is of much larger size than any of my examples from China. The total length of the skin is about $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches, of its wing $6\frac{1}{2}$. The Hakodadi bird may be the *Scops kennicotti*, Elliot, procured before in Alaska (see Trans. Chicago Ac. Sc. 1869, p. 331.

13. LONG-EARED OWL. *Asio otus* (L.).

Quite a fall of these occurred in the first week in October on their southward migration. I got five specimens from Lighthouse Island of both sexes, all more or less rufescent. Their wings slightly exceeded the tail in length. The ear-conch was enormous. Bill and claws blackish brown; tips of toes grey. Iris orange-yellow. Inside of mouth flesh-colour. In Shanghai, on the 1st November, my brother John shot another in a wood outside the town. All the specimens are much like home birds.

14. GOATSUCKER. *Caprimulgus jotaka*, Temm. & Schleg. Faun. Jap.

On the 4th May we saw two of this species in the Bois de Boulogne. The ground was covered with sand; so they roosted conspicuously along the thick branches of trees. They were disturbed by our passing under, and flew to adjoining trees. They must have rested with their eyes open in such exposed places.

15. WHITE-RUMPED SWIFT. *Cypselus pacificus*.

Swifts were at Chefoo before us, and were to be seen every fine day flying in parties high in the air, and in cloudy weather darting about near houses and round the summits of hills. At sundown I noticed they went seawards, and roosted in the cliffs that bordered the sea. On the 22nd June, Constable Webster went out collecting for me to the North Rock, a small rocky islet about fifteen miles to seaward of the harbour. He found the island girt with rocky cliffs, which he had much difficulty in scaling by means of the oars of the boat. On the top, about 100 feet elevation, was a grassy flat. In the clefts and crannies of the rocks he found many nests, off which he poked the owners, and brought to me a dozen of them alive in a cage. They were individuals of the bird under notice of both sexes (five males and seven females), showing that both males and females take their turn in incubation. Some of these had an extraordinary four-winged gad-fly about their feathers. The nests were small for the size of the bird, shaped like three-quarters of a saucer, with its broken side adhering to the rock, and in some cases resting its under surface on a projecting ledge. One was apparently a nest of the year, consisting of a shallow saucer, nearly 4 inches in greatest breadth, thicker behind than in front, and constructed of refuse straw and a few bits of catkins and feathers, all strongly agglutinated with a gelatinous matter, doubtless the bird's saliva. Another was perhaps the accumulation of six years, consisting of six nests one placed above another and strongly glued to it. Fucoids and a little earth formed the foundation of the lowest of the series. The eggs contained in all were two in number, the fresh ones pinkish white until blown, when they became an unpolished white. Many were hard-set, containing advanced embryos, and then showed externally dull white. They average in length 1·2 inch, by ·7 in breadth. This species figures in the MS. Illustrations as the "Iron-footed Swallow." Pallas (*Zoograph. Rosso-Asiat.* i. p. 539) decides after some hesitation to consider this only a var. β of *Cypselus apus*, and speaks of its breeding in company with the Black Swift in abundance on the rocks about Lake Baikal. Had

he compared the nests of the two so-called varieties, he would not have doubted long as to their specific distinctness. It is worth noting how closely the nest of our bird resembles that of the *Collocalia*! The Black Swift of Peking does not appear to visit Chefoo. It breeds at Peking, building in the holes of buildings a loose nest like that of a Sparrow.

16. *HIRUNDO GUTTURALIS*, Scop.

Swallows of course had arrived before we did, and were as familiar and as trustful of man as in the south. On the 4th May I noticed one out of a party flying over a village that had a bright *red* tail. This, I fancy, must have been due to some prank played on it by native boys. This is figured in the MS. illustrations as the "Hill" or "Rustic Swallow."

17. *CECROPIS JAPONICA*, Bp.

The Daurian Swallow was not behind its congener; and wherever the one was to be seen, the other was not far away.

Their modes of incubation are different, and I have never seen their nests near together; but their methods of food-hunting attract each other, and thus they get associated. Every afternoon they were to be seen about our hill; and I soon observed that they were not of the northern form that resorts in summer to Peking, my *C. arctivitta*, but the larger broad-banded species of the south, as above named. The acquisition of a male, shot by my friend Mr. Carles, on the 23rd May, proved that I was right in my surmise. It measured in total length 6·75 inches; wing 4·5, first quill a little shorter than the second and longest, 2·2 longer than the tertiaries, 1·4 short of tail. Tail 3·7 long, outer rectrix 1·9 longer than centrals. Male on dissection; testes much enlarged. On the 26th of the same month the same friend shot a pair of this species. The female had the red nuchal collar broken at the back, the sides of the nape less rufous, the wings shorter, the long rectrices of the tail narrower, with a faint whitish spot on each of them, thus differing from the two males.

This form of Daurian Swallow would appear, then, to be the coast-species. It is figured in the MS. Illustrations as the "House," or "Domestic Swallow."

18. *ALCEDO BENGALENSIS* (Lath.).

I never met the little King of the Shrimp in my rambles about Chefoo; but native birdcatchers occasionally brought live examples. Figured in the MS. Illustrations as the Tsuycheo (M.D. 11197, 10794), or Turquoise bird. A group of five of *Eurystomus orientalis* is figured in the same Illustrations, but without name.

19. HOOPOE. *Upupa epops*, L.

I saw a Hoopoe in a cemetery at the foot of the hills, where it probably had its nest. In flying up to a tree it threw a summersault. On the 19th May Mr. Crasemann sent me a female that had died in his aviary. Native name Poo Kuh-neao (M.D. 8661, 6564, 7946), or Grain-distributing Bird. He had procured it from a native birdcatcher only a few days before. A Wren is figured in the MS. Illustrations, but without Chinese name.

20. EASTERN REED-THRUSH. *Calamodyta orientalis* (T.&S.).

I know of no reed-abounding marshy places at Chefoo such as we have at every other port I have been stationed at. Hence at this place there was no such cover as this summer visitor loves, and the specimens that disported on Lighthouse Island were evidently migrants passing over to more suitable localities across the Gulf of Pechelee. Mr. Campbell procured three or four specimens of both sexes in the beginning of May, and one or two early in June.

21. MOLUCCAN SMOKY REED-THRUSH. *Calamodyta insularis* (Wall.).

Two males and one female of this Reed-Thrush were procured by Mr. Campbell on Lighthouse Island on the 3rd June. They were severally well developed and ready for breeding, and could not have had very far to go for their summer quarters. In my "Revised Catalogue of the Birds of China" (P. Z. S. 1871, p. 352) I mention that this Moluccan species occurred at Amoy in numbers in May. Twenty days later they were passing Chefoo; and probably many summer in the Corea. The allied *C. fasciolatus*, G. R. Gray, did not turn up at Chefoo. I stated before (*l. c.*) that one of

these last was sent from Lake Baikal. It is odd that these two allied species should meet to winter in the Moluccas. I extract from my notes on the fresh bird :—"The fat that abounds on the rump of birds in migration had in these nearly disappeared. The testes of the males were whitish and much swollen. The female was somewhat smaller than the males, was less smoked on the underparts, and had a lighter bill.

"♂. Rim round eye yellowish. Bill on upper mandible blackish brown, with yellowish edge ; inside of mouth, rictus, and basal half of lower mandible chrome-yellow, the last brownish towards tip. Legs, toes, and nails light flesh-brown, darker on the toes.

"Length 7·1 inches. Wing 3·25, ·85 longer than tertiaries, 1·96 short of tail ; first quill diminutive, second ·1 shorter than the third and longest. Tail 3 inches, of twelve much graduated pointed feathers, outer one shorter than centrals. Under tail-coverts 1·08 short of tail-tip. Tarse 1·1 ; middle toe and claw 1·06 ; hind toe and claw ·68. Bill in front ·65, from gape ·95."

22. MOCK NIGHTINGALE. *Arundinax canturiens*, Swinh.

Mr. Campbell brought me a specimen of this on the 15th October. It was the only one I saw at Chefoo. On the 29th October I got a male at Shanghai. I would call it a vagrant rather than a migrant species. I will resort to Blyth's generic name for this group, as I find his type, *A. olivaceus* (= *Turdus aëdon*, Pall.) (*cf.* P. Z. S. 1871, p. 353) is as much a bush-lover as any of ours, and not a reed-skulker. His genus has priority, though the name is any thing but apt.

23. DAVID'S SMALL MOCK NIGHTINGALE. *Arundinax davidianus*, J. Verr.

In my "Revised Catalogue" (P. Z. S. 1871), under *Herbivocula flemingi*, I allude to this species as one of two sizes in the Paris Museum from Pekin. Mons. J. Verreaux described it under the above name with Père David's novelties from Moupin (Chinese Thibet, to the north-west), (*Nouv. Arch. du Muséum*, t. vi. (1870), p. 37. no. 18). I cannot understand

the mistake, as Verreaux showed me the specimen mounted in the Museum, as also coming from Pekin, and asked me whether I considered it distinct from the smaller form, another mounted specimen, which I recognized as my *A. flemingi*. Yet Verreaux writes (Bull. p. 4), "c'est encore du Moupin que provient l'unique sujet mâle que possède le Muséum, et qui fut tué en avril 1869 par M. A. David."

On the 22nd May, at Chefoo, native birdcatchers brought me a small *Arundinax*, like my *A. minutus*, but of a rather larger size, with the throat coloured as the breast, and with only a very little reddish on the forehead. I took the following note on its appearance when fresh. It was a female on dissection:—

"♀. Length 5·4 inches. Wing 2·4; fourth and fifth quills equal and longest, 1·4 short of tail, ·5 longer than tertiaries. Tail 2·4, graduated. Bill ·4, to gape ·7. Tarse ·95. Middle toe and claw ·68; hind toe and claw ·5. Iris deep brown. Bill brown, pale on *tomia*, and flesh-coloured at base. Legs and feet brownish flesh-colour; claws light brown."

24. DIMINUTIVE GRASSHOPPER-LARK. *Locustella lanceolata*, Temm.

In the last half of May this species arrived in numbers, and almost every bush and patch of coarse grass on our hills had its denizens. One perched on the window-sill of my sitting-room, and hopped along most tamely, throwing up its tail and twitching its wings, but uttering no note.

On the 31st Mr. Campbell sent me three pairs from Lighthouse Island. Their sexual organs were small and black, and the fat about the rump was abundant, suety, and hard, showing that they were still "on the move." I took this note on a fresh female:—

"♀. Length 4·7 inches. Wing 2·28; first quill diminutive (varies in size); second rather shorter than the third, which is the longest, ·34 longer than the tertiaries, 1·3 short of tail-tip. Tail 1·95, much graduated and wedge-shaped, outer ·7 short of centrals, and covered by under tail-coverts, which run ·45 short of tip. Tarsus ·65 in front; middle toe and

claw ·75; hind toe and claw ·62. Bill in front ·37, from gape ·65."

On a further study of Cassin (Proc. Acad. Sciences, Phil. 1856, p. 194) I feel convinced that his *Luscinopsis hender-soni* refers to this species, and not, as before supposed, to my *L. macropus*. Lord Walden has received this little wanderer from the Andaman Islands.

25. CREEPER-COLOURED GRASSHOPPER-LARK. *Locustella certhiola* (Pall.).

The first I got of these was on the 20th May, when some native birdcatchers brought me a male. It was sexually well advanced, and, strange to say, had its tibial tendons fleshy and not osseous, as in all our other Chinese species of Grasshopper Lark. So constant did I find this character that I began to think it generic. In plumage, it is true, this species has a tendency towards *Cisticola*; but in habits it is nevertheless a true *Locustella*.

♂. Very flat on the forehead, straight in line with the bill. Legs and feet flesh-brown. Bill light brown, black on culmen and tip. Length 5·5 inches. Wing 2·65, its tip falling 1·6 short of tail-tip, ·55 longer than tertiaries; first quill ·3 shorter than the second, which is the longest, and exceeds the third by ·1. Under tail-coverts ·45 short of tail-tip; upper tail-coverts 1·1. Tail 2·2 long, the outer feathers being ·8 shorter than centrals, of twelve much graduated feathers, five on each side being mucronate at their tips, the two centrals pointed. Tarse in front ·77; middle toe and claw ·87. Claws long. Bill from forehead ·52, from gape ·72.

On the 31st May Mr. Campbell sent me three from Lighthouse Island, and on the 25th June I came upon one in my garden flitting from plant to plant.

26. WANDERER WILLOW-WREN. *Phyllopneuste borealis*, Blas.

On the 31st May Mr. Campbell sent me a host of these, no less than twenty-three specimens. When I next saw him he told me that for a day or two the trees and bushes in his island literally swarmed with this bird; and I frequently

noticed it at the same time in Chefoo. It disappeared as suddenly as it came.

27. YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER. *Reguloides superciliosa* (Gmel.).

On our arrival at Chefoo at the end of April the weather was still fresh, and the trees only just budding into leaf. This little winter visitant was still there among the trees, and soon made its presence known by its loud plaintive call-note. On the 4th May, while on a ramble in the so-called "Bois de Boulogne," I watched one springing joyfully about among the slender green-tipped sprigs of a willow, and thought how apt was its Chinese name *Lew-yung* (M. D. 7210, 12640), or "Exuberance of the Willow."

28. ROBIN BLUETAIL. *Ianthia cyanura* (T. & S.).

A few of these passed to their more northerly breeding-stations.

29. BLUE-AND-WHITE ROBIN. *Larvivora cyane* (Pall.).

These passed up plentifully in May, and I got a goodly series from the birdcatchers. The female is much like in colour of plumage that of the female Narcissus Flycatcher, *Xanthopygia narcissina* (T. & S.), having the upper parts brownish olive, the wings and tail brown, and the underparts fulvous, strongly so on the throat and breast, with dark margins to the feathers. Males in full plumage were comparatively rare, most of them having brown wings and tail, fulvous flanks, or some signs of immaturity about them. I procured one nearly complete albino (a female on dissection) with flesh-white bill and legs. It was presented to me by Mr. Crasemann, who bought it alive a few days before from a bird-catcher.

The males have a short pleasing song. Native name Lan-teen-rh or Blue-dyed.

30. ROBIN REDTHROAT. *Calliope camtschatkensis* (Gmel.).

Numbers of these also passed northwards in May; and, judging from the backward state of their organs, I should say that they still had a long way to travel. The male has a rich

ruby throat; in the female this is white. I ascertained the sex of six with white throats. It is true that at Amoy I found males with white throats also; but occasionally the occurrence of a red feather in its midst proved that the white throat was also the dress of immaturity. Pallas (Zoograph. Rosso-Asiat. i. p. 483) states that both sexes have the red throat. An old female might occasionally possess it.

31. LESSER OX-EYE. *Parus minor*, Temm. & Schleg.

I both heard and saw this species in the "Bois de Bologne," and subsequently got a specimen, which did not differ from the birds at Ningpo. It is the only Tit I met with at Chefoo. Figured in the MS. Illustrations as Tche-tche-kang, a name without meaning, probably in imitation of its notes.

32. MOLUCCAN TITLARK. *Anthus gustavi*, Swinh.

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Imagine my surprise when, on the 31st May, Mr. Campbell, of Lighthouse Island, sent me fourteen of these Pipits, amongst them six males and five females. I had found them before at Amoy one spring, passing through in large numbers; but I had then no clue as to where they went. In a day or two they had all vanished from Chefoo. Judging from the nearly equal number of the sexes procured, I should say the two travelled in company, which is rarely the case among birds, the males generally preceding the females. Besides, northwards, this species must have another line of route through China; for since I have been in England this time, Mr. Slater sent me a specimen of this Pipit, received from M. Taczanowski, of the Museum at Warsaw, to whom it was sent from Lake Baikal by Dr. Dybowski. I took this note from a fresh Chefoo specimen:—

"♀ Length 5·85. Wing 3·28; first quill the longest, second and third *gradatim* slightly shorter, 1·15 short of tail-tip, ·85 longer than tertiaries. Tail 2·18, of twelve feathers, and a little forked. Tarsi in front ·85; middle toe and claw ·85; hind toe ·45, its claw ·47. Bill in front ·45, from gape ·7.

33. EASTERN TREE-PIBIT. *Anthus agilis*, Sykes.

The only specimen I got of this Pipit was taken on the 4th

May by a birdcatcher in the "Bois de Boulogne." A Pied-Wagtail is figured in the MS. Illustrations as "Ho Yatcheo" (River-Magpie).

34. PALE-EYEBROWED THRUSH. *Turdus obscurus*, Gmel.

At Amoy I procured two sizes, large and small, of this winter-wandering Thrush, which strays at that season as far south as Malacca. At Chefoo I procured in May a male of each size. This seems to be the species given by Pallas (Zoograph. Rosso-Asiat. i. p. 457) as *Turdus pallens*, and described by him only in the winter plumage, though he states positively that it passes the summer in the copses around the rivers of Dauria, and in the mountain-woods around Lake Baikal. Temminck identified certain specimens procured in Europe with Pallas's bird; then at a later date he confounded *T. pallens* with his *T. daulias* of Japan. In Europe, I presume, they have only occurred in their winter plumage, as they do in Malacca (*T. rufulus*, Eyton). In spring the head and neck become blackish grey, the chin and upwards to lower eyelid and the superciliary mark being white, the rest of the plumage unaltered. The present is a wandering species; and its occurrence in Europe is what one might expect; whereas *T. daulias* is only a local migrant. There is as much as an inch difference in the comparative length of the two races of *T. obscurus*, and sometimes even more; but I can find no corresponding difference of plumage to warrant their separation. The light tips to the greater wing-coverts, and the white tips to the outer tail-feathers, are by no means constant. Sometimes both are plainly present; at others, one set, or often both, are entirely absent.

35. SIBERIAN THRUSH. *Turdus sibiricus*, Pall.

For some days towards the end of May these Thrushes were about our hills, apparently bound north. On the 22nd Mr. Carles shot three males, all sexually well advanced. I took the following note on a fresh specimen:—

"♂. Length 8·5. Wing 4·76; first quill ·75 long, second ·18 shorter than the third and longest, 1·7 short of tail-tip, 1·5 longer than tertiaries. Tail 3·5, of twelve nearly equal

pointed feathers. Bill .9, to gape 1.15; blackish yellow inside of mouth. Legs and toes brownish-yellow, browner on the scutes and claws. Iris blackish-brown."

Mr. Campbell, of the Lighthouse, sent me a female on the 3rd of June:—

"♀. Length 8.6. Wing 4.5; first quill .78; second .2 shorter than the third, which is the longest, 1.85 shorter than the tail-tip, 1.5 longer than the tertiaries. Tail 3.4 long; outer rectrix .35 shorter than the central, all mucronate. Tarse 1.05; middle toe and claw 1.2; ochreous yellow throughout. Bill .87, from gape 1.05; upper mandible and apical half of lower blackish brown; basal half of lower and inside of mouth yellowish. Plumage olive-green above, spotted with same below."

36. GOLD-SIDED GREY THRUSH. *Turdus chrysopleurus*, sp. nov. (Plate XIV.)

On the 15th May Mr. Campbell sent me, among other birds, a new Thrush which he had just shot on Lighthouse Island. It was a good deal battered; was a male on dissection, with enormous testes.

Total length about 9 inches. Wing 4.7; first quill .35 shorter than the second, which, with the third, is the longest in the wing; fourth .1 shorter; wing-tip 2.15 short of tail-tip. Tail 3.4; under tail-coverts 1.2 short of its tip. Bill from forehead .82, from gape 1.05. Tarse 1.23; middle toe .9, its claw .28. Bill, inside of mouth, and skin round eye orange-yellow. Legs and toes the same.

This is the only specimen that turned up at Chefoo; and I was disposed to think that it was a straggler from Corea; but I have seen a very tolerable drawing of it among some sketches of native birds; so it may be commoner in other parts of this Province. It is called in the sketch "Hwuy-ke" (M.D. 4523, 5315) or Ashy Fowl. The nearest ally among the Indian Thrushes to this species that I have seen is one shown me by Lord Walden, *Geocichla tricolor*, Hume, which differs from ours in having the upper parts black instead of grey. The female of *G. tricolor* resembles closely the female of *Turdus dissimilis*, Blyth.



COS del.
J. G. Keulemans. lith.

M & N Hanhart imp

TURDUS CHRYSOPLEURUS.

37. WHITE'S THRUSH. *Oreocincla varia* (Pall.).

The only specimen I procured of this Thrush was brought by Constable Webster on the 6th October from Kung-kung-tan, or Lighthouse Island, whither he went the day before for a little outing with his gun. It was a male, and had the inside of its mouth orange-yellow. Legs and toes flesh-colour. Tail of fourteen feathers, the outermost .5 shorter than the centrals.

38. BLUE-AND-RED ROCK-THRUSH. *Monticola solitaria* (P. L. S. Müller).

These came about the rocks of our hill in the neighbourhood of our houses in August, when I procured a male, which is of the size and brightness of the typical bird of northern Japan. It had apparently finished nidification for the season, but still bears many marks of juvenility about it. The feathers of the head and hind neck are margined with blackish and grey, those of the back, upper wing-coverts, and rump with black and whitish, of the wings and tail with whitish, and of the underparts with black and whitish. The ground-colour of the upper parts and breast is greyish blue, of the axillaries and remaining underparts dark chestnut. A bird procured before from Tientsin was of the same typical form and colour. The young markings seem to be retained till the second year.

39. WAXWING. *Ampelis garrulus*, L.

Waxwings had been taken in Chefoo before our arrival; but we did not see any flying about during our stay. Many natives in the place had them in cages. It is figured in the MS. Illustrations as the Hwai-ke (M.D. 4236, 5315), or "Cedar Fowl."

40. CHINESE ORIOLE. *Oriolus chinensis*.

Orioles passed Chefoo, but not in any number. Some stayed to breed. In May I received a male, in breeding-order as far as the sexual organs were concerned, but still somewhat whitish on the underparts, with the the long dark spots of immaturity, with the upper parts washed with green, the nuchal black band not fully developed, and the bill brownish.

This was probably the offspring of a late last year's nest; but it goes to show that males as well as females of this species breed in immature plumage. I procured a nestling on the 12th July. This has a brownish bill, with light leaden-coloured legs and claws; the underparts yellowish white, with black-spots on the breast and belly. Back and crown green, with blackish centres to the feathers, a yellowish band stretching across the occiput. Wing-coverts dark green on outer webs, black on inner with yellowish tips; quills black edged whitish, their coverts with dark green and tipped with yellow; secondaries black on inner webs, and along inner half of outer webs. Tail-coverts greenish yellow, rectrices black, with large yellow terminal spots. On the 15th September I obtained a pair of adults. The female is rather larger than the male, and can at once be distinguished by her greenish mantle.

41. NYMPH GROUND-THRUSH. *Pitta nympha*, T. & S. Faun. Japon.

On the 13th August a *Pitta* was brought to me in a cage. It was said to have come from Yeu-chow Foo in this province, and had evidently been long in a cage, as the lower mandible had outgrown the upper, and the bird had all the appearance of a prisoner. It answered fairly to the description of *P. nympha* in the 'Fauna Japonica,' which was based on a drawing taken by a Japanese artist at Nagasaki from a bird said to have been brought from Corea. I announced this discovery to the Secretary of the Zoological Society; and my note on the subject was published in P. Z. S. 1873, p. 730. It devoured grasshoppers greedily, and had a wailing cry like that of a puppy dog in distress. On the 20th August it died, and proved to be a male.

That this bird is *P. nympha* there cannot be a shadow of a doubt, answering as completely as it does to the figure and description of that species in the 'Fauna Japonica.' Its sole difference is in the want of the black chin; but this addition in the plate is evidently an artistic error. Its nearest ally is my *P. oreas*, from Formosa, from which it chiefly differs in being rather paler in the ground-colour of the underparts, and

in having a larger tarse and longer toes. The throat of *P. nymphea* is more decidedly white; the green of its mantle is somewhat more yellow; and the sanguineous middle line of its belly mounts higher. Both want the white crescent on the black axillaries, but are otherwise closely allied to the *P. coronatus* group of India.

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XLIV.—*Notices of recently published Ornithological Works.*

THOSE who know the bulk and cost of our county-histories will be thankful to Mr. Mansel-Pleydell for having printed in a separate form and octavo size his natural-history contributions to the new edition of Pulteney's 'Dorsetshire,' now in course of publication. These consist of a Dorset 'Flora,' a Dorset 'Ornithology,' including a "List of the rarer birds of the County," and a similar treatise on its 'Conchology'*. Strictly speaking, we have only to do with the second of them; but the "Introduction" to the 'Flora' contains a good account of the physical geography of the district, which deserves the attention of our readers, since too many local naturalists are apt to overlook that essential coefficient of all Faunas. Dorset has hitherto not been favoured by ornithologists, and no list of its birds has appeared since Pulteney's 'Catalogue' in 1799 (?); while it has been also remarkably deficient in well-placed observers, and thus, doubtless, many a winged windfall to its coast has escaped enrolment in the "British List." Portland itself, one would think, should be another Heligoland, attracting storm-tossed stragglers from afar; yet Portland makes little figure in our author's work. Poole Harbour, with its many bays and backwaters—looking from the Lytchett heights more like a West-Indian lagoon than any thing else in this island—has, indeed, long been famous for the number of rare water-birds which have fallen

* Flora of Dorsetshire &c. By John Clavell Mansel-Pleydell, B.A., F.L.S., F.G.S. London and Blandford, 1874, 8vo, pp. 320.

Ornithology and Conchology of the County of Dorset. By the same. pp. 120.